

CAPSULE SUMMARY  
Ford Lumber Company (PG: 79-80)  
15008 Marlboro Pike  
Prince George's County, Maryland

Originally Ford Lumber Company and later a Chevrolet dealership, the R&R Auto Electric building was built around 1935, when modernism was beginning to influence American commercial design. The location of the building, adjacent to the Baltimore and Potomac rail line, reflects patterns of growth and development in Prince George's County during the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Architecturally, the building reflects a transition from 19<sup>th</sup> century to 20<sup>th</sup> century forms. The front parapet was a common feature in late-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular commercial design, and remained popular through the 1920s and 1930s, taking on the form of the stepped parapet. The vertical massing on the façade and the use of glass blocks around the entrance, however, betray the influence of modernism.

This Art Deco-style store is one story tall and five bays wide. The original building was nearly square in plan; however, a large one-story rear addition was added. The walls and foundation of the building feature concrete block construction, and the bay divisions are articulated by engaged brick piers. The asphalt shingle roof of the original part of the building is largely hidden behind the large stepped parapet on the façade. The roof of the rear addition is a very shallow barrel vault. The bowed curve of this roof contrasts to the roof of the front part of the store, which has been rebuilt to approximate a curve, by a series of segmented joints in the roof structure. A concrete block interior chimney flue is located on the rear addition, near its juncture with the front part of the store.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG: 79-80

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Ford Lumber Company  
common/other name R & R Auto Electric

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2. Location

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street & number 15008 Marlboro Pike not for publication       
city or town Upper Marlboro vicinity      state Maryland code MD  
county Prince George's County code 33 zip code 20772

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes      Name of Listing                                     

No ☒

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Ford Lumber Company  
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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: Specialty Store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: Specialty Store

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Art Deco

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Concrete Block

Roof Gable: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Masonry: Concrete Block

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1935-1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates c. 1935  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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Ford Lumber Company  
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property .56 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property at 15008 Marlboro Pike is designated as Parcel 4, Grid A1 as indicated on Map 102.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The building at 15008 Marlboro Pike has historically been associated with Parcel 4 since its construction in 1935.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians  
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 7, 1999  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

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12. Property Owner

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name James A. and Joan A. Ridgley  
street & number 15008 Marlboro Pike telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20772

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-80

Section 7 Page 1

Ford Lumber Company  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

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The commercial building at 15008 Marlboro Pike is located on a lot on the northeast side of the road. Situated close to the road, the store has a paved parking area on the south, and a small gravel parking area on the north side. Built around 1935, this Art Deco-style store is one story tall and five bays wide. The original building was nearly square in plan; however, a large one-story rear addition was added. The walls and foundation of the building feature concrete block construction, and the bay divisions are articulated by engaged brick piers. The asphalt shingle roof of the original part of the building is largely hidden behind the large stepped parapet on the façade. The roof of the rear addition is a very shallow barrel vault. The bowed curve of this roof contrasts to the roof of the front part of the store, which has been rebuilt to approximate a curve, by a series of segmented joints in the roof structure. A concrete block interior chimney flue is located on the rear addition, near its juncture with the front part of the store.

The façade, or the southeast elevation of the building, is five bays wide. Each bay is articulated by an engaged brick pier, and the recessed entrance is located in the center bay. The door opening is surrounded on the top and sides by glass blocks, and features a single-leaf, 1-light wood replacement door. The two bays on either side of the entry each feature two fixed wood display windows, which have replaced earlier, larger display windows. The wall surface between the brick piers is painted concrete block. The top of the façade features a stepped parapet with a corbeled cornice.

The northeast elevation is comprised of the original store and the long rear addition. The original front section features a 3-light wood replacement window and three 2-light fixed metal windows. The bay divisions are marked by engaged brick piers. The rear addition contains a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door and four 8-light metal pivot windows. The rear, or northwest, elevation has stucco facing, and is marked by two 8-light metal pivot windows. The southwest elevation is comprised of the front section and the rear addition. The front section features engaged brick piers marking the bay divisions, but only one 2/2 wood window. A single-leaf 1-light wood door is on the far right bay. The rear addition has four 8-light metal pivot windows, a pull-up door which is not visible, and a single-leaf metal slab door.



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-80

Section 8 Page 1

Ford Lumber Company  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

=====  
Originally Ford Lumber Company and later a Chevrolet dealership, the R&R Auto Electric building was built around 1935, when modernism was beginning to influence American commercial design. The location of the building, adjacent to the Baltimore and Potomac rail line, reflects patterns of growth and development in Prince George's County during the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Architecturally, the building reflects a transition from 19<sup>th</sup> century to 20<sup>th</sup> century forms. The front parapet was a common feature in late-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular commercial design, and remained popular through the 1920s and 1930s, taking on the form of the stepped parapet. The vertical massing on the façade and the use of glass blocks around the entrance, however, betray the influence of modernism.

Between 1870 and 1930, the introduction of rail lines to Prince George's and Charles counties encouraged trade, spurred by increased accessibility to markets in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. New roadways brought commercial development in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, and the increased number of cars and trucks on newly-expanded roadways created a need for automobile related businesses.

A pronounced emphasis on sleek, vertical forms became one of the hallmarks of the Art Deco style, which combined Cubist-inspired European Modernism with streamlined, rhythmic machine forms, and a love of gaudy colors and shiny materials such as aluminum, stainless steel, and glass blocks. Glass blocks became popular after Owens-Illinois introduced Insulux, the first widely used glass block, in 1935. While the sleekness of glass block made it a perfectly compatible material for Art Deco designs, the great quantities of light it admitted into buildings appealed to the modern aesthetic for light, bright interiors. This building reflects the influence of the Art Deco style on vernacular commercial design.



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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Section 8 Page 2

Ford Lumber Company  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

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National Register Evaluation:

The commercial building at 15008 Marlboro Pike is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Not Recommended X

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Review, OPS: *[Signature]* ✓ Date: 11/1/99

Reviewer, NR Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Prince George's County, MD  
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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape, and  
Community Planning  
Economic

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

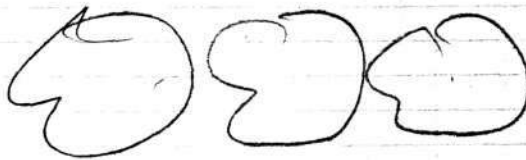
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name of property  
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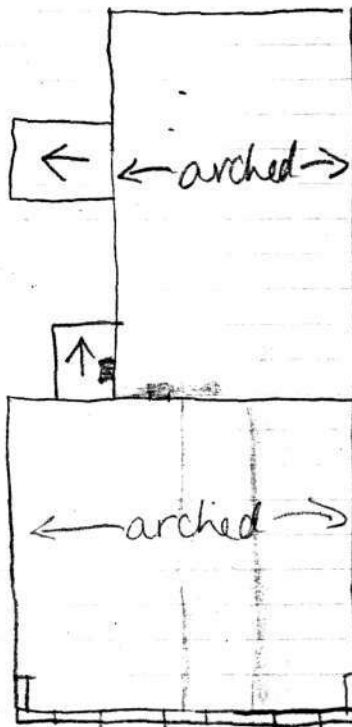
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**Chain of Title:**

- December 15, 1877: Ignatius S. and Mary E. Wilson to George W. Wilson  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber H.B. 13 Folio 72
- October 7, 1920: George W. and Nellie Flegal Wilson; Mary L. and James Selwyn Sasscer; and Clivie C. and Theadocia G. Wilson to Samuel S. Waters  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 174 Folio 37
- February 17, 1948: Samuel S. and Fannie F. Waters to W. Frank Ford and Katherine R. Ford  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 1011 Folio 213
- June 29, 1972: W. Frank and Katherine R. Ford to Ottaway C. Ridgley, Jr. and James A. Ridgley  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 4089 Folio 748
- October 24, 1989: Ottaway C. Ridgley, Jr. and James A. Ridgley to James A. and Joan A. Ridgley  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 7464 Folio 195

N↗



parking



Marlboro Pike

Ford Lumber Company PG: 79-80  
15008 Marlboro Pike

Prince George's County  
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999  
Not Drawn to Scale

1394 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW  
PG: 79-75

2901 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW  
PG: 79-76

3807 OLD CRAIN HIGHWAY  
PG: 79-77

4000 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SE  
PG: 79-78

4109 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW  
PG: 79-79

15008 MARLBORO PIKE  
PG: 79-80

BLADENSBURG 14 MI.  
LARGO (JUNC. MD. 214) 7.6 MI.

1/4 SE  
MARLBORO



Bristol USGS Quad





PG 79-80

Ford Lumber Company

15008 Marlboro Pike

Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

southeast elevation

1 of 4





PG: 79-80

Ford Lumber Company  
15008 Marlboro Pike  
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

*northeast elevation*

2 of 4



PG: 79-80

Ford Lumber Company

15008 Malboro Pike

Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

northwest elevation

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PG: 79-80  
Ford Lumber Company  
15008 Marlboro Pike  
Prince George's County, MD  
Traceries  
June 1999  
MD SHPO  
southwest elevation  
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